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OF

GHOSTS

AND

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AND NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.

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ΦΑΝΤΑΣΜΑΤΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ;

SCEPTICISM has attempted to deſtroy the belief in the exiſtence of Ghoſts and Apparitions; whether this hoſtile attack upon popular faith is juſt, or even politic, may, with every appearance of reaſon, be doubted.

We know, from facts, that vicious perſons have been frequently reſtrained from committing the moſt atrocious deeds, particularly from imbruing *their* hands in blood, by a dread of the nocturnal appearance of the injured perſon's Ghoſt, when ſilence holding her reign, and darkneſs caſting an aweful horror around, the very idea of the ſcene has been capable of appalling thoſe hearts, which pity could not move.

We know too, that men of weak and vain minds, incapable of ſober reaſoning, and fantaſtically averſe to precept, have been ſnatched from the wickedneſs and folly of infidelity, by real or fancied ſupernatural warnings.

If

If then the great caufes of morality and religion may be thus benefited by it, let us not haftily erafe from the mind an opinion which, at the worft, is perfectly harmlefs. Let us not, in our admiration of perfonal courage, contemn that difpofition to dread which is one of the firft principles of fociety, and without a mixture of which, paradoxical as it may feem, perfonal courage would become a fcourge.

Having thus apologifed for prefenting to the Public a collection of hiftories, in which Ghofts and Apparitions will be the principal actors, it remains only to ftate that our Anecdotes will be entirely new, and are derived from the moft refpectable perfonal authorities.

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